

New Smyrna Beach BALLOON & SKY FEST

APRIL 4, 2013

APRIL 5, 6, 7



INSIDE:

- Schedule of events
- Attraction map
- What to bring



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5th annual New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest

April 5-7, 2013

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This special section was produced by The Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Cover photo by News-Journal/ CINDY CASEY

Hot-air balloons dot the sky over New Smyrna Beach and head southwest after a morning liftoff at the 3rd annual Balloon & Sky Fest.

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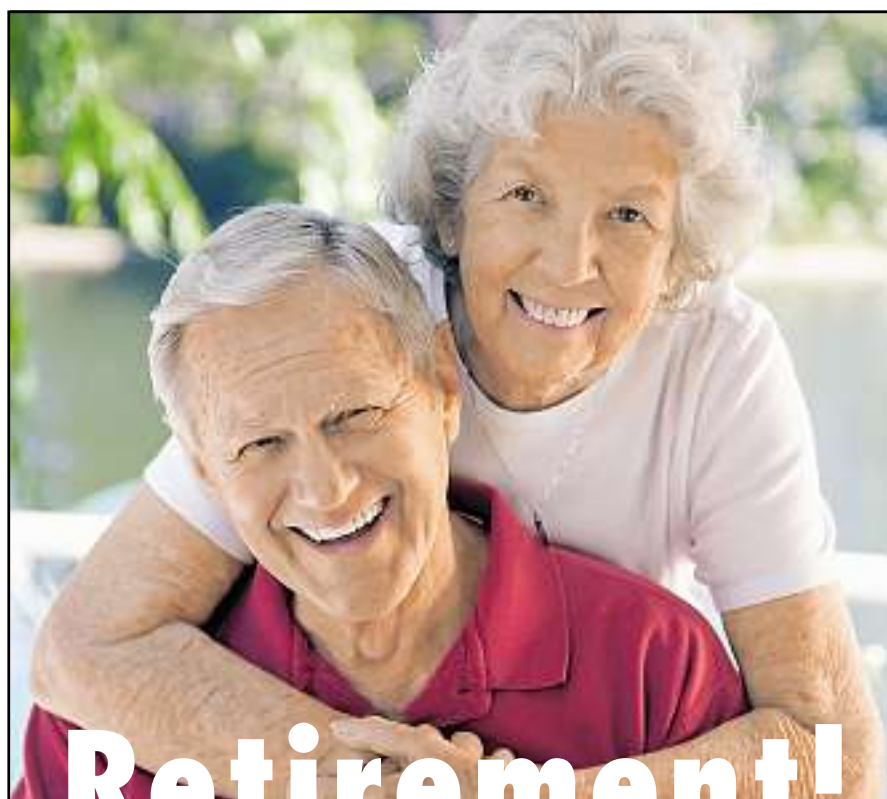
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www.balloonandskyfest.com

The members of the Board of Directors of the Balloon & Sky Fest Foundation hope you enjoy the 2013 New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest, one of the fastest growing family fun events in Florida.

We would like to salute the 25 members of the Sky Fest Organizing Committee, who work tirelessly year-round to make this event a huge success. Without their efforts, this event would not be possible.

Thanks also to the many sponsors of Balloon & Sky Fest, especially the City of New Smyrna Beach, which helped found this event and which remains a faithful and enthusiastic partner in its success.

Please enjoy the 34 hours of all-weekend, all-family fun that Balloon & Sky Fest offers. There is no other event quite like it anywhere in the world.

And be sure to mark the dates of next year's event on your 2014 calendars.

Join us March 28-30, 2014 for another fantastic New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest.

Thank you - and enjoy the weekend.



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Night air shows top 5th annual Balloon & Sky Fest

A balloonist's burner brings out the beauty in his hot-air balloon during an evening glow at a past Balloon & Sky Fest.

N-J file photo

By **RICHARD CONN**
STAFF WRITER

Most people have probably never been to an air show, let alone one that takes place at night.

"It's really pretty amazing with the lights and fire and pyrotechnics, sparking things coming off the wings and strobe lights and music," said Dr. Arlen Stauffer, chairman of the New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest.

An expanded night air show is just one new twist in this year's version of the city's signature aerial event. The fifth annual Balloon & Sky Fest will be held April 5-7 at the New Smyrna

Beach Municipal Airport. Gates open at 2 p.m. Friday, featuring teathered hot-air balloon rides. On Saturday, gates open at 7 a.m., kicking off with – weather permitting – hot-air balloon passenger flights.

"Everything is bigger and better," Stauffer said of this year's festival.

The night air show begins after sunset, roughly about 7:30 p.m., on both Friday and Saturday, with the Sky Fest's traditional balloon glow – picture a bevy of balloons illuminated to resemble giant light bulbs.

From there, the Aeroshell Aerobatic team, piloting their AT-6 aircraft, will circle the balloon glow and perform at dusk. A fire-streaking glider, a jet-engine powered school bus that can travel up to 300 mph, and a Twin Beech plane that will zoom

News-Journal/ **NIGEL COOK**

A parachutist with the U.S. Army Golden Knights lights up the night as he drops in over the 4th annual New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest.

across the sky with colored smoke and strobes while music plays from “The Phantom of the Opera” will finish up the dazzling aerial display.

For those who want to go home a little earlier, an earlier version of the air show will begin at 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Also new this year is a 4-H Animal Encounter. Set up on about two acres, the exhibit will feature agricultural displays and chances for either hands-on or close up encounters with a wide variety of farm animals, birds of prey and marine life.

The Inspiration Village, will feature a collection of “many things that are designed to inspire and motivate,” Stauffer said. The amalgam of aeronautics there will

include NASA exhibits, radio-controlled airplanes, robotics demonstrations and a helicopter display. Visitors also will be able to interact with the air show performers and military pilots in the forum tent.

Stauffer said this year’s Sky Fest also will feature an expanded list of music acts, spanning genres from country to ska.

Yet another new venue this year is the Balloon Experience. There a balloonist will be on hand to answer questions from visitors along with displays of propane burners, balloon baskets and envelopes.

“We wanted to make sure that no matter when people come out they can learn about balloons and sort of experience what they are all about,” said David Burt,

executive director of the Balloon & Sky Fest Foundation.

Along with all of that, there will be helicopter and B-25H Bomber rides. A spin can also be had in the oldest flying DC-3, the “Flagship Detroit,” which has been fully restored.

Admission for this year’s event is \$5. Children under 12 get in free. All veterans with ID get in free. There is no charge for parking.

“Each year we grow a little bit, we expand our venues, we sort of expand the look of the place,” Burt said. For more information, on this year’s event and a full schedule of events visit balloonandskyfest.com.



'Dracula' debuts at New Smyrna Beach show

BY RICHARD CONN
STAFF WRITER

Kyle Franklin's act at last year's Balloon & Sky Fest as a plane stealer was a show stealer. Franklin, playing the character of Ben Whabnoski, who feigned being more than a little more than slightly inebriated, "stole" a Piper Cub.

"He runs out and jumps in an airplane and then flew in crazy patterns around as if he were a guy that really didn't know how to fly an airplane," said David Burt, executive director of the Balloon &

Sky Fest Foundation.

The faux thievery comedy act will take a back-seat this year. Franklin, who comes from a lineage of air show legends, will instead debut his monstrous creation of a biplane dubbed "Dracula" at this year's Balloon & Sky Fest air show.

The horror movie-inspired masterpiece is nine years in the making, an aircraft that Franklin's late father and air show legend, Jimmy Franklin, began building.

"The airplane is simply beautiful," Burt said. "It has what appears to be blood streaming back

from the engine."

As if the dazzling Dracula act wouldn't be enough for the most ardent adrenaline junkies, this year's Balloon & Sky Fest also will feature the return of the jet-powered school bus called "School Time." The fire-breathing vehicle, which belches out 80-foot flames, can reach speeds up to 367 mph after it was fitted with a jet lifted from a McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom fighter jet.

The custom-made machine was created by Paul Stender, who explained on his website that he created the high-speed dragster for two reasons.

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**Franklin**

"The first is to entertain people because, come on, it's a jet bus," he said. The second is to inspire kids to keep away from drugs. To that end, the

fierce machine is displayed at schools across the country as Stender and his wife Therese spread their anti-drug message, "Jets are Hot, Drugs are Not."

While in town for the Balloon & Sky Fest, the Stenders will take School Time to local schools as well as Boys & Girls Clubs, Burt said.

"It's important for them to have active hobbies and creative interests to keep busy and keep away from bad influences and drugs," Paul Stender explains on his website.

This year's expanded night airshow also will feature the New Smyrna Beach debut of air show favorite Manfred Radius, streaking across the sky in his aerobatic sailplane.

Dr. Arlen Stauffer, chairman of the Balloon & Sky Fest, said Radius is the "the only person on earth that does a night aerobatic act in a glider. He's got smoke and pyrotechnics that shoot off of his wings while he's doing this in the dark."



Pilot Kyle Franklin flying his stunt plane 'Dracula'

Photos courtesy of Franklin's Flying Circus and Airshow

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News-Journal/ **CINDY CASEY**

A balloonist gives a blast of hot-air into the envelope as he gently lifts off from the New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport during the 3rd annual New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest.

SAFETY COMES FIRST FOR BALLOONISTS

To the uninitiated a gentle breeze may be just the ticket on a muggy April morning or afternoon, but for the balloonists participating in the 5th annual New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest, it can mean no flying that day.

"Hot-air balloons are very weather and wind sensitive," said event balloon master Mark Roberson. Any breeze 8 mph or above will keep these craft on the ground, he said.

That is why balloonist usually fly early in the morning.

"As the sun comes up, the winds (aloft) mix," said Ormond Beach balloonist Dave Crotts.

Crotts said a balloon pilot depends on the "Coriolis effect" – the shifting of winds caused by the rotation of the earth – to control their craft.

"It is all about the winds," he said. "You have to pay attention to what Mother Nature is doing."

To go left, Crotts said, a balloonist may ascend, to go right, he or she may descend, catching the wind currents at various altitudes.

"It is sailing in the air," he said, describing the process.

The wind direction also can dictate where a balloon launches or lands, such as not taking off from the airport if the winds are out of the west. That could push the craft over the ocean.

"That is not a balloon friendly environment," said Roberson, who will oversee balloon operations during the festival.

Even if a balloon never leaves the ground, too much wind can prevent it from ever being inflated, he said.

"We are not going to do anything that creates as safety issue," Roberson said. "We are not going to push the limits."

— *Mark I. Johnson*

Balloon meister is in charge, but hot-air craft float where winds blow

By **MARK I. JOHNSON**
STAFF WRITER

Like dandelions floating on a spring breeze, the colorful hot-air filled envelopes that will rise above the city's Municipal Airport during the New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest will drift in whichever way the wind blows.

That is the challenge balloon meister Mark Roberson faces.

"I am in charge of herding the cats," quipped Roberson, who will oversee hot-air balloon operations during the 5th annual event.

"A hot-air balloon does not have a steering wheel," he said.

And while the pilot can generally control the direction of his aircraft by ascending or descending to catch the various wind currents at different altitudes, it is not always an exact science.

"Nine times out of 10 you can

fly from point A to point B, but that 10th time you are just along for the ride," Roberson said. "It's kind of like herding cats, you don't know what a cat is going to do until it does it."

Such "pure aviation" is what attracts Ormond Beach pilot David Crotts of Aerostat Adventures to ballooning.

"I have been flying for about 14 years," the 49-year-old said. "It is sailing in the air."

Crotts said this will be his fourth year participating in the New Smyrna Beach festival and he will be bringing two of his balloons.

"It's one of my favorite places to fly," he said of the combination of scenery that comes with flying along the coast and the challenges that environment and being near other airspace, such as Spruce Creek Fly-In or the Daytona International Airport, demands of a pilot.

Throughout the festival, organizers anticipate as many as 25 hot-air balloons glowing in the twilight illuminated by their propane-fueled burners at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. In addition there will be five tethered lighter-than-air craft above the festival, including the famous "Sugar Bear" and "Purple

People Eater," along with the ReMax and Immokalee Casino balloons.

At sunrise Saturday and Sunday – weather permitting and the winds blowing from the east or north – the balloons may take off from the airport for a "fiesta flight" over Southeast Volusia. If the breeze is from the West or the South, Roberson will have to find another location from which to launch the lighter-than-air craft with hopes of landing back at the airport. A westerly wind direction is particularly crucial, as officials don't want the balloons to float over the ocean.

"That is not a balloon friendly environment unless you have snorkel gear," Roberson said.

A few lucky thrill seekers will get the chance to go along for a ride during the Saturday and Sunday flights on a space available basis that organizers anticipate will be filled in the days leading up to the festival. However, in the event spaces remain, people interested in the hour-long, \$230 per person rides can call 386-957-3378 for more information.

Festival-goers will have another opportunity to get a taste of balloon flight with rides at \$10 per person in at least one

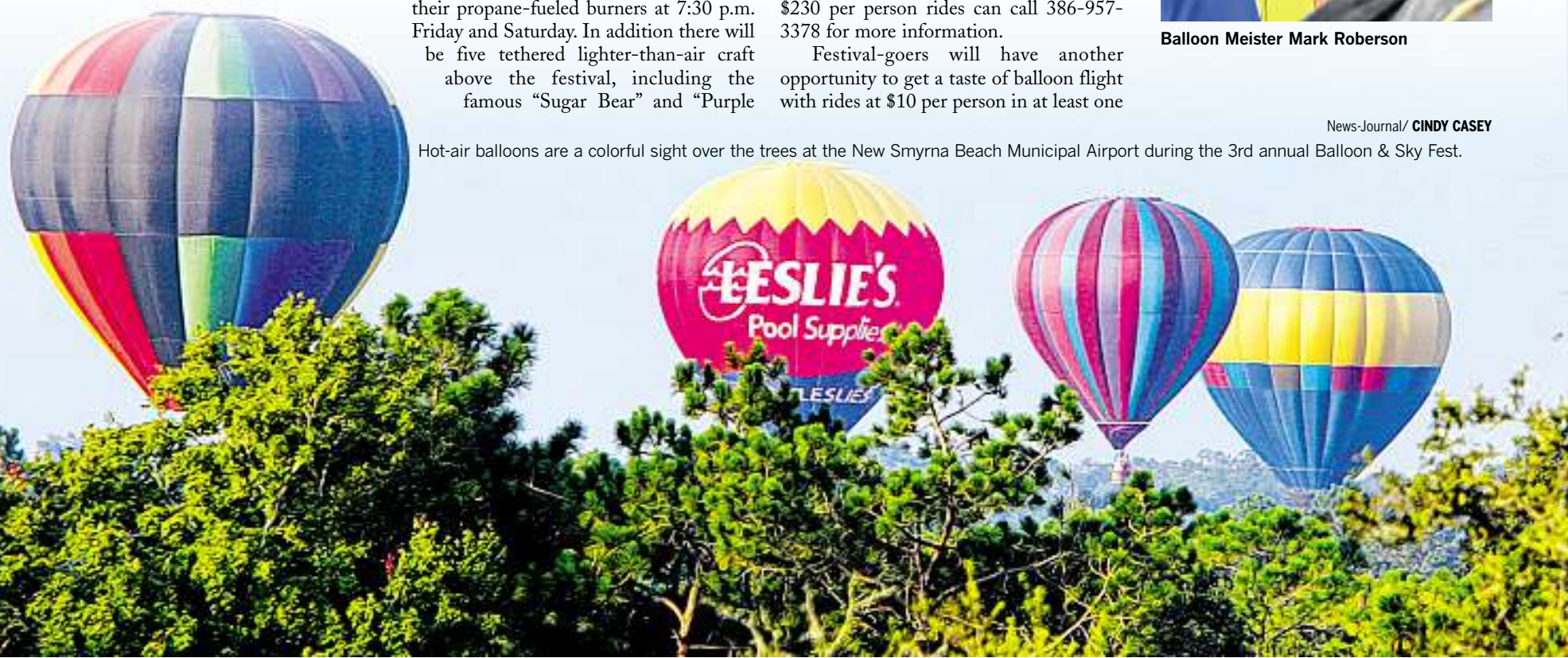
of the tethered balloons at the airport. Tickets will be available at the festival.



Balloon Meister Mark Roberson

News-Journal/ **CINDY CASEY**

Hot-air balloons are a colorful sight over the trees at the New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport during the 3rd annual Balloon & Sky Fest.





5th annual New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest

New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport • Schedule of Events

FRIDAY

2 p.m.

**Gates Open. No coolers.
BRING YOUR CAMERA**

ALL EVENING

■ All 100+ vendors open, 4-H Animal Encounter, the Inspiration Village, live entertainment on the 80,000-watt Fest Stage, and the Carnival Rides open (until 10 p.m.). Static display aircraft, including a B-25 bomber, a classic DC-3, a Corsair, T-6's, P-51 Mustangs, helicopters, and fighters, can be enjoyed all afternoon and evening!

• **RIDES** (all afternoon, until dark... Huey and Enstrom helicopters, airplanes, B-25 bomber).

• **Lots of food all day.**

BEER: 2 - 9 p.m.

• **Tethered Balloon Rides** (winds and weather permitting)*

4 p.m.

■ The Afterwhile on the Sky Fest Stage (unique folksy blues music)

5:30 p.m.

■ Run Rhino (great rock!) on the Sky Fest Stage

7 p.m.

■ Teflon Don on the Sky Fest

Stage (eight-member ska band)

7:30 p.m. (Approx.)

■ **BALLOON GLOW*** (balloons are very wind sensitive, and can not inflate if the winds are more than about 8 mph), GLOW usually lasts 60 minutes.

8:30 p.m.

■ **NIGHT AIR SHOW!** Back by popular demand! The Aeroshell Team circles the Balloon Glow and then performs at dusk, and the show continues with Manfred Radius and his fire-streaking glider, the fiery cloud of the 300 mph Jet School Bus, and the smoke, thunder, and strobes of Matt Younkin's huge Twin Beech!

10 p.m.

■ Gates Close

SATURDAY

7 a.m.

Gates Open. No coolers.

BRING YOUR CAMERA.

ALL DAY and EVENING:

■ All 100+ vendors open, 4-H Animal Encounter, the Inspiration Village, live entertainment on the 80,000-watt Fest Stage, and the Carnival Rides open (until 10 p.m.). Static display aircraft, including a B-25 bomber, a classic DC-3, a Corsair, T-6's, P-51 Mustangs, helicopters, and fighters,

can be enjoyed all afternoon and evening!

• **RIDES** (all day, until dark...

Huey and Enstrom helicopters, airplanes, B-25 bomber).

• **Lots of food all day.**

BEER 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

SUNRISE (Approx 7 a.m.)

Hot-air balloon passenger flights (last approx 1 hour)*.

7 a.m.

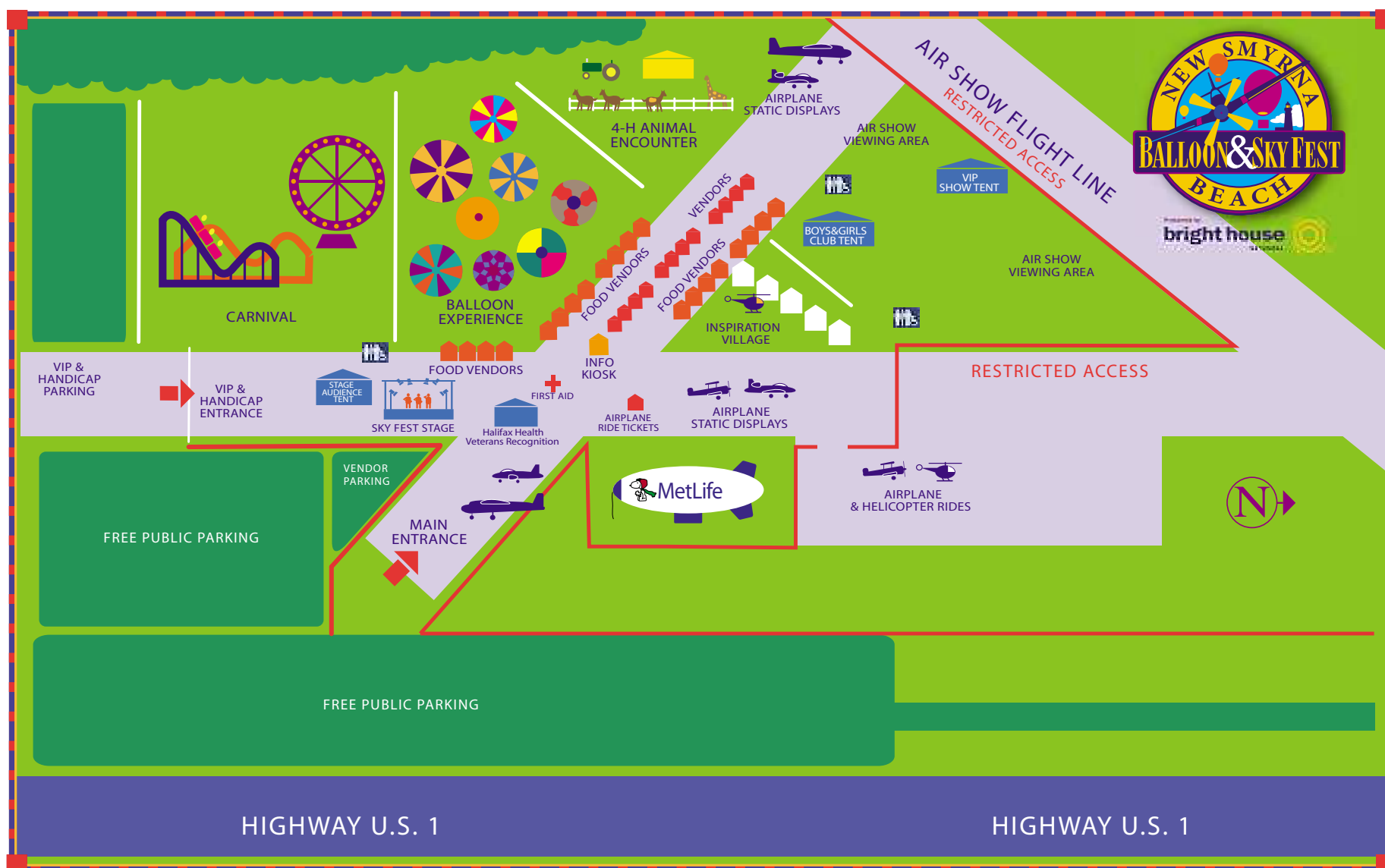
■ Classical music as the sun rises over Balloon & Sky Fest

9:30 a.m.

■ Dance Factory on stage

10:15 a.m.

■ Stirrup Some Dust precision





horse demonstration tea.m..

10:30 A.M.

■ Rolling Thunder Missing Man Presentation

11 a.m.

■ Quad-Line Stunt Kite, Colleen Baker

NOON

■ Nick Comis, a.m.azing illusionist

12:30 p.m.

■ Pre-Air-Show

Demonstrations begin (helicopters, Coast Guard demonstration, overhead formation flying, etc.)

1 p.m.

■ AIR SHOW Acts scheduled to appear at this time include Patty Wagstaff, AeroShell Aerobatic Tea.m., Matt Younkin, the 300 MPH Jet School Bus, Skybolts parachute tea.m., military fighter jet and bomber demonstrations, A-4 Skyhawk jet, Manfred Radius, P-51 Mustang demo, Jason Newburg, the WORLD PREMIERE of Kyle Franklin's Demon-1 Biplane "Dracula" show, and much more...

■ Veterans Honor Ceremony, sponsored by Halifax Health - Hospice, with The Vietnam Veterans Honor Guard, at approximately 1:15 P.M., followed by fly-bys of numerous warbirds representing the several wars of the past Century

NOTE: The show was approved by all branches of the military for participation by its aircraft, but the level of participation will depend on world events and training requirements.

3:30 p.m.

■ Combined group precision horse demonstration

5:30 p.m.

■ Just Twistin' Hay on the Sky Fest Stage (Celtic music with a twist)

7 p.m.

■ Patrick Gibson on the Sky Fest Stage (Florida's BEST country!)

■ **7:30 p.m.** (Approx.) **BALLOON GLOW*** (balloons are very wind sensitive, and can not inflate if the winds are more than about 8 mph), GLOW usu-

ally lasts 60 minutes.

8:30 p.m.

■ **NIGHT AIR SHOW!** Back by popular demand! The Aeroshell Team circles the Balloon Glow and then performs at dusk, and the show continues with Manfred Radius and his fire-streaking glider, the fiery cloud of the 300 mph Jet School Bus, and the smoke, thunder, and strobes of Matt Younkin's huge Twin Beech!

10 p.m.

■ Gates Close

SUNDAY

7 a.m.

Gates Open. No coolers. BRING YOUR CAMERA.

ALL DAY and EVENING

■ All 100+ vendors open, 4-H Animal Encounter, the Inspiration Village, live entertainment on the 80,000-watt Fest Stage, and the Carnival Rides open (until 10 p.m.). Static display aircraft, including a B-25 bomber, a classic DC-3, a Corsair, T-6's, P-51 Mustangs, helicopters, and fighters, can be enjoyed all afternoon and evening! RIDES (all day, until dark.... Huey and Enstrom helicopters, airplanes, B-25 bomber).

• **Lots of food all day.**

• **BEER 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.**

SUNRISE (Approx 7 a.m.) Hot-air balloon passenger flights (last approx 1 hour)*.

7 a.m.

■ Classical music as the sun rises over Balloon & Sky Fest

9:45 a.m.

Stirrup Some Dust precision horse demonstration tea.m.

10 a.m.

Little Theater, musical presentation

10:45 a.m.

Stirrup Some Dust precision horse demonstration team.

11 a.m.

Smyrna Brass on stage

11:45 a.m.

Stirrup Some Dust precision horse demonstration team.

NOON

■ Daytona Beach Harley Davidson Drill Team.

NOON

■ Pre-Air-Show Demonstrations begin (helicopters, Coast Guard demonstration, overhead formation flying, etc.)

1 p.m.

■ **AIR SHOW** Acts scheduled to appear at this time include Patty Wagstaff, AeroShell Aerobatic Team, Matt Younkin, the 300 mph Jet School Bus, Skybolts parachute team, military fighter jet and bomber demonstrations, A-4 Skyhawk jet, Manfred Radius, P-51 Mustang demo, Jason Newburg, the WORLD PREMIERE of Kyle Franklin's Demon-1 Biplane "Dracula" show, and much more.

■ Veterans Honor Ceremony, sponsored by Halifax Health - Hospice, with The Vietnam Veterans Honor Guard, at approximately 1:15 p.m., followed by fly-bys of numerous warbirds representing the several wars of the past century.

NOTE: The show was approved by all branches of the military for participation by its aircraft, but the level of participation will depend on world events and training requirements.

4 p.m.

■ Travis Stratton and the Salt Water Grass on stage

6 p.m.

■ Gates Close... Fest Ends.

* All hot-air balloon activities are very wind sensitive. The balloons can not inflate or fly if the winds are more than 8 mph (it can be dangerous). We will make every effort to have balloons inflated and flying as much of the weekend as possible, but we can't control the weather.

** Check balloonand-skyfest.com for updates.

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Sky Fest special presentation to salute local veterans



News-Journal/ PETER BAUER

Four WWII era P-51 Mustangs perform during the annual Balloon Festival, in New Smyrna Beach, on Saturday March 24, 2012 afternoon.

By **MARK I. JOHNSON**
STAFF WRITER

Balloons and aircraft may be the attraction at the New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest, but those who served their country will be the real honorees.

In conjunction with Halifax Health-Hospice of Volusia/Flagler, organizers of the fifth annual event are going to recognize all veterans of all branches of

the armed services.

Not only will veterans with proper identification be admitted free of charge during the three-day festival at New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport, there also will be special presentations.

On Saturday and Sunday, a veteran who served during each of the past six wars – World War II to Afghanistan – will be selected to receive special recognition for their time in uniform.

"The six veterans will be honored as representatives of all veterans, one from each war," Balloon Fest executive director David Burt said.

He said the concept was initiated during last year's festival when the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team presented a wooden baton to two former



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News-Journal/ NIGEL COOK

Attendees walk amongst vintage aircraft on static display at the 4th annual New Smyrna Beach Balloon and Sky Fest.

servicemen in recognition of their dedication to their country.

Burt said when organizers began planning this year's presentation there were concerns someone might feel left

and some who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

Also during the air show, which will feature Warbirds from WWII to present day, both days the Vietnam

“The six veterans will be honored as representatives of all veterans, one from each war.”

— David Burt, Balloon Fest executive director

out. So each of the six veterans to be called to the stage on each of the two days, are being invited to take part simply based on the fact they served, whether it be in combat or not.

“They should be honored,” said event coordinator Rod Phillips, who served with the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. “This is for the servicemen and women who dedicated themselves to their country

Veterans of America Chapter 1048 honor guard will present the colors.

In addition to the special presentations, veterans can receive a commemorative pin in honor of their service to the nation at the Halifax Health-Hospice of Volusia/Flagler tent.

The special recognition of the six veterans is slated for 1:15 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



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New events add to Balloon & Sky Fest experience

By TAYLOR ASHLEY
CORRESPONDENT

The 2013 New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest is now in its fifth year but there are some new events that will add to the weekend-long, family-friendly fun experience.

In addition to the 25 balloons that will colorfully bedeck the skyline, visitors can get up close to these lighter-than-air craft when they visit the Balloon Experience tent, which will

feature ballooning history throughout the weekend.

"There will be propane burners, baskets and canopies – everything to do with the history of ballooning," said David Burt, executive director of the Balloon & Sky Fest Foundation.

For the many who have never seen a blimp up close and personal, the MetLife Snoopy 1 will be making its first appearance at the Sky Fest. Visitors will be able to experience the too-big-to-be-missed, 130-foot heli-



Photo provided by NSB Balloon & Sky Fest Foundation

Pilot Charlie Smith stands in front of the MetLife Snoopy 1 blimp that will be on display during the 5th annual Balloon & Sky Fest.



Photo provided by NSB Balloon & Sky Fest Foundation

The 4-H Animal Encounter is a new exhibit at this year's Balloon & Sky Fest.

um-filled gentle behemoth with its 13-member crew. The Snoopy 1 will be on display all weekend offering a rare photo opportunity.

Another new addition to Sky Fest is Inspiration Village, a one-acre tent village featuring NASA displays, robotics, demonstrations, radio-controlled airplanes, engineering experiments and a Boy Scouts area. Visitors will be able to talk with military pilots and hear presentations from the Organization of Black Airline Pilots in the Forum Tent. A full size helicopter will be on display as well within the village.

"Inspiration Village is a village of tents with demonstrations meant to open kids' minds," Burt said. "When the foundation formed, its intent was to inspire, motivate and educate – a place to have fun while learning."

Foundation and Committee Chair Arlen Stauffer said that Inspiration Village with its demonstrations, museum exhibits and guests speakers will hopefully, "become a window for the kids to look through for what their future can be."

The 4-H Animal Encounter is another event new to Sky Fest this year. "We have several 4-H Clubs from Central Florida coming to this event," Stauffer said. "It is another way to let young people see things that they've

never seen before."

The 4-H Animal Encounter is a one-of-a-kind venue set on two acres, giving children, young adults and their parents a hands-on, up-close experience with a wide variety of animals. What makes this encounter unique is that all of the animals will remain on the property during the weekend to roam watch, interact and perform under the supervision of the 4-H members and an on-site veterinarian.

In addition to the horses, ponies, cows, goats, sheep, chickens, geese and other feathered and furry creatures will be the Birds of Prey and Marine Life displays. A display of antique tractors, and old-fashioned hayrides are all part of the 4-H Animal Encounter.

According to Stauffer, the night air shows have been substantially expanded this year.

"Night air shows are amazing, it's pretty spectacular," Stauffer said adding, "especially with the laser lights and we have built that out more this year."

Checking the schedule of events is advised because of the number of shows and activities going on each day and night. Visitors also can download a mobile phone show app directly from the website.

For complete information, visit balloonandskyfest.com.

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Sky Fest stage features full slate of daily live music

By RICK de YAMPERT
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Just Twistin' Hay, a Central Florida Irish-Celtic folk band, took its name from an Irish slang phrase. Fiddler Linda Clipp says the name means "making merry mischief with no harm done. Just having fun, no one gets hurt. We all have a good time."

Just Twistin' Hay won't be the only band "twistin' hay" at the New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest this weekend. Along with daily air shows, ballooning activities and other entertainment, the festival will feature daily live music including rock, ska, folk/roots, country, brass, bluegrass and musical theater. Most music artists will be performing on the Sky Fest stage.

Here's the music lineup:

FRIDAY

4 p.m.: The Afterwhile. This area folk-roots band includes three siblings of the musical Cuchetti family — guitarist-singer Tony, singer Gina and drummer Chris — plus mandolin player Jason "Fancy Pants" Miller.

Along with originals, the Afterwhile cover music by such artists as Johnny Cash, U2, Patsy Cline, Aretha Franklin, Bob Marley, Coldplay, David Gray, Amy Winehouse, Damien Rice — and even a few Radiohead and Nirvana songs.



N-J file photo

Tony Cuchetti of the Afterwhile band, along with siblings singer Gina and drummer Chris plus mandolin player Jason Miller, will perform 4 p.m. Friday at this year's Balloon & Sky Fest.

5:30 p.m.: Run Rhino. Bassist-keyboardist Alex Ceserani says the members of this area band "have our definite rock influences, but in our songwriting we draw

from classical and jazz backgrounds. It's the rock sound but a classical approach to composition."

While Run Rhino's originals fuse a jam band/progressive rock style with Steely Dan and Dave Matthews vibes, the band also plays songs by Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rage Against the Machine and others.

7 p.m.: Teflon Don. Half of this eight-member Orlando ska band is its four-piece horn section. Teflon Don plays both ska classics and originals, and counts Reel Big Fish, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Streetlight Manifesto and Squirrel Nut Zippers among its influences.

According to its website, reverbnation.com/teflondonska, "While ska bands of the past have reggae and Jamaican influences, Teflon Don is guided by an invigorating mix of American music like swing and Dixieland."

SATURDAY

4 p.m.: Anthony Wild and the Suspects. The repertoire of this area blues and R&B band, fronted by singer Anthony Wild, includes Junior Wells' "Messin' With the Kid," Percy Sledge's "When a Man Loves a Woman," Joe Cocker's "You Can Leave Your Hat On" and Robert Johnson's "Crossroads."

Wild and company also whip up such originals as

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N-J file photo

The band Just Twistin' Hay, a Central Florida Irish-Celtic folk band, will take the Sky Fest stage 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport.

the bluesy-funky “Wind in My Face,” the 1950s-styled “Shake These Walls,” the Cajun-spiced “The Danger Isn’t Over” and a rockin’ tale of a babe and a car titled “Back Seat Boogie.”

5:30 p.m.: Just Twistin' Hay. The group performs the traditional jigs and reels of Ireland and other Celtic regions. The band's instrument palette includes fiddles, flute, whistle, guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, bass,

banjo, recorder, bodhran (Irish hand drum), spoons and vocals.

7 p.m.: Patrick Gibson. Songs by this Central Florida country artist include “Florida Cracker Country Boy” and “Just Memories Within.”

SUNDAY


10 a.m.: Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach. Seven members of the community theater will perform

Broadway hits from such shows as “Rent,” “Company,” “Funny Girl,” “Fiddler on the Roof” and others.

11 a.m.: Smyrna Brass. These high school horn musicians perform under the direction of Dick Cuchetti.

4 p.m.: Travis Stratton and Saltwater Grass.
This Florida bluegrass band will close out the festival.

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Balloon & Sky Fest takes a community to pull it together

By TAYLOR ASHLEY
CORRESPONDENT

In five short years, the New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest has grown from a single morning flight of hot-air balloons to a massive three-day event that draws more than 30,000 people to Southeast Volusia.

To pull it all off, the Balloon & Sky Fest Foundation relies heavily upon community volunteers to work the event that now features day and night air shows, two morning hot-air balloon flights, two balloon glows, exhibits, carnival rides and live entertainment.

This year there will be roughly 300 shifts of volunteers throughout the weekend

helping with parking, admissions and various attractions on the event grounds. The logistics of organizing volunteer help can be challenging.

Brian Pigeon heads up the army of volunteers at Sky Fest.

"I'm working on the scheduling now," Pigeon explained. "There are 300 different slots to fill. A slot is a four-hour shift that



Festival-goers arrive before sunrise at the New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport to take pictures as the hot-air balloons inflate and fill the sky.



for example will start at 6 a.m. and end 10 a.m. That is one slot, one time frame, and there are many different things to be done."

According to Pigeon, volunteers work in the headquarters, on the balloon crews, as gate keepers, golf cart attendants and day-to-day workers. All are scheduled individually. Additionally, there will be students from Embry Riddle and the Jr. ROTC from Spruce Creek High School assisting the individual volunteers.

One group that will be taking on the job of managing the parking will be the Smyrna Surfari Club, bringing about 160 of its own volunteers to coordinate the parking, according to festival committee member Jeff Crawford, who also is a Surfari member.

"The Surfari Club has been in exis-

tence for 33 years and has raised money through surfing contests to give scholarships to senior / surfing high school graduates and have given more than \$100,000," Crawford said.

Proceeds from the festival will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia / Flagler counties as well as other local school and community organizations making volunteerism a win/win for all concerned.

"With the economy the way it is, raising money for school groups is getting tougher," Crawford said. "All of the groups get paid which is based on how many people pay admission to the festival."

According to Crawford, last year each group received roughly \$700 for their volunteer efforts.

Among the many other organizations that have helped through the years include the New Smyrna Beach High School baseball, softball, basketball and volleyball teams and its mission group, Christian Surfers, Coronado Methodist Church and Save 8: Educate, which is a student-driven high school organization in Central Florida promoting understanding and support for organ and tissue donation.



Donnie and Chloe Sparks of New Smyrna Beach zip down the giant slide at the festival's carnival.

0001045810



News-Journal/ CINDY CASEY

Dr. Arlen Stauffer, chairman of the Balloon & Sky Fest, helps keep an envelope open as it fills with hot air for an early morning flight over New Smyrna Beach.

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N-J file photos

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Making the most of Balloon & Sky Fest

By **TAYLOR ASHLEY**
CORRESPONDENCE

Take the camera, but leave the cooler at home when you head out to the New Smyrna Beach Balloon & Sky Fest. This weekend's three-day event promises to be bigger and better than ever.

To make the most out of the festival – filled with balloon flights, air shows, carnival, Inspiration Village, aircraft on display, craft show, balloon glows, 4-H Animal Encounter, and the live entertainment – there are some things to consider to make the experience that much more enjoyable.

Admission to the event is \$5, 12 years and older. Children under 12 years, Veterans with ID, and members of the

Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia-Flagler Counties, are admitted free of charge. Three different types of VIP Pass packages can be purchased.

Festival times: Friday, 2 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WHAT TO BRING

Cameras, lawn chairs and sunscreen are recommended.

Do not bring coolers or beverages. Only service dogs will be permitted. Smoking is not permitted anywhere and weapons are not allowed. No bikes, roller blades or scooters.

Food and beverages will be sold by more than 30 vendors, including local businesses, on site. The exclusive water of the festival is Choose Rain, and will be

the only water sold or permitted anywhere at the festival.

RIDES

Tethered balloon rides are \$10, the free-flight balloon passenger flights cost \$230 per person and reservations are advised. Schedules are available on the festival website. Helicopter and airplane rides also will be offered.

AIR SHOWS

Pre-air show flying demonstrations and the official full air shows will take place throughout the weekend with schedules posted online.

Parking will be clearly marked in nearby fields and business lots. Car-pooling is recommended. Handicap parking will be located near the south entrance, off

Industrial Park Avenue.

Seating in front of the entertainment stage, and along the air show flight line is limited, but there are open spaces for a lawn chair or blanket.

Comfort areas and picnic tables will be available under the shade of tents scattered throughout the grounds.

Most activities will go on in the event of rain, including the air shows.

Visitors seeking hotel and lodging can call the New Smyrna Beach Visitors Center at 800-214-4604.

Checking the schedule of events is advised because of the number of shows and activities going on each day and night.

For complete information, visit balloonandskyfest.com.

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News-Journal/ **CINDY CASEY**
Balloon glows, morning flights and tethered balloons are beautiful sights when the winds are just right. Organizers are planning for a weekend full of events, but the hot-air blows will be grounded if winds are more than 8 mph.

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\$995!*

*Offer valid with purchase of ME-1 or ME-2 RIC Hearing solution (pair). No other offer or discounts apply. Offer cannot be combined and does not apply to prior sales. See participating Miracle-Ear Representatives for details. Offer expires 4/26/13.

FREE Battery Charger!*

\$250 Value | FREE!

No more batteries to change!

*Offer valid with purchase of ME-1 or ME-2 RIC Hearing solution (pair). No other offer or discounts apply. Offer cannot be combined and does not apply to prior sales. See participating Miracle-Ear Representatives for details. Offer expires 4/26/13.



Buy One, Get One FREE

ME4 ITE - Fully digital and programmable Hearing Aids!
Miracle-Ear Technology at a price you can afford!*

*Some options may be chargeable. See store for details. Offer good on pair of ME4 ITE hearing aids. Purchase one ME4 contour at MSRP and receive one free. Contour only. Smaller sizes available at additional cost.

Buy One, Get One FREE*

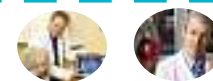
on All Battery Packs

*Free battery pack must be of equal or lesser value. Limit 3 free packs. Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. OFFER EXPIRES 4/26/13.

FREE Hearing Aid Tune-Up*

and \$50 OFF Any Repair

*Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only. One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. OFFER EXPIRES 4/26/13.



You may not have a hearing loss, it may be nothing more than earwax.

FREE Hearing Test & Ear Canal Inspection**

No cost or obligation



NEW SMYRNA BEACH	ORMOND BEACH	DAYTONA BEACH	IN PORT ORANGE	PALM COAST	ORANGE CITY
219 Canal Street 386-423-4427	1199 W. Granada Blvd. 386-252-6111	1500 Beville Rd., Ste. 605 386-788-0646	Call: 386-756-8244	4996 Palm Coast Pkwy., Ste. 6 386-283-4922	879 N. Volusia Ave. 386-775-4800

**Hearing tests and video otoscopic inspections are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. These are not medical exams or diagnosis nor are they intended to replace a physician's care. If you suspect a medical problem, please seek treatment from your doctor.

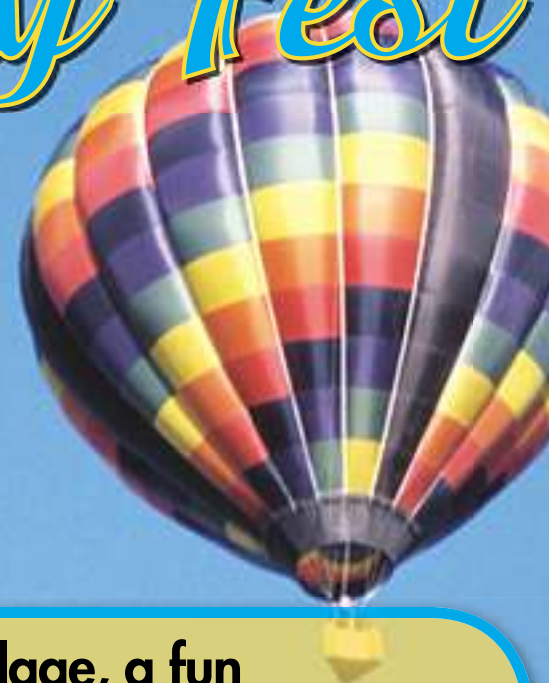
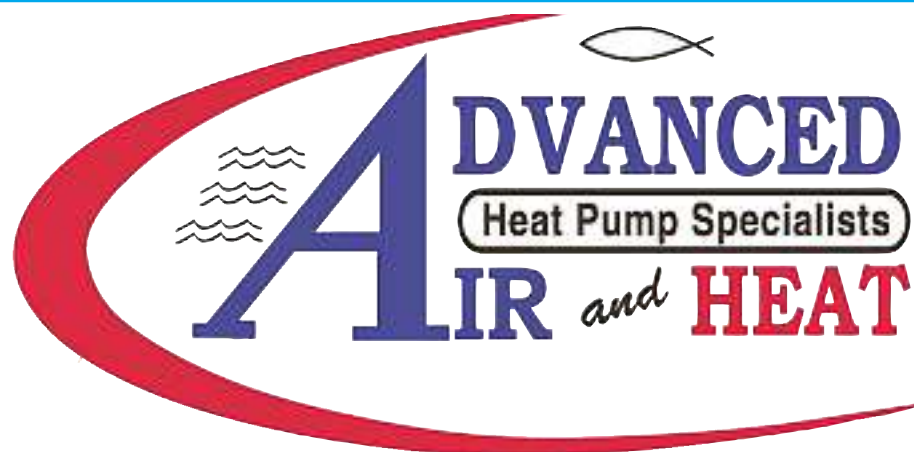
***Hearing aids do not restore normal hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to amplification.



0001045800



NEW SMYRNA BEACH *Balloon & Sky Fest*



- Four Fantastic Air Shows, 2 Dazzling Night Shows & 2 Afternoon Shows.
- A Special Ceremony Saturday & Sunday honoring Veterans of 4 Wars.
- Inspiration Village, a fun interactive learning experience for all ages.
- New two-acre 4-H Animal Encounter, enjoy a variety of animals, pony rides & horseback performers!